

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01267 010945Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02  
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 PRS-01 PA-02  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /071 W  
-----010958Z 019639 /10/50

O 211416Z MAY 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN  
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6125  
INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1267

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

DEPT FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY ALSO

BELGRADE FOR VP MONDALE'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: RSA MEDIA REACTION: MONDALE VORSTER, MAY 20/21

SUMMARY: RSA MEDIA SPLASHED VIENNA DISAGREEMENT ACROSS FRONT PAGES  
OF DAILIES MAY 21. SALIENT POINTS OF VP MONDALE'S PRESS REMARKS  
CARRIED DURING EVENING NEWS ON TV MAY 20. EVEN AFRIKAANS PRESS COULD  
NOT MAKE VENT LOOK VERY GOOD FOR SAG. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 01267 010945Z

1. SABC/TV NEWS VIEWERS TREATED TO UNUSUAL SIGHT OF VP MONDALE  
PULLING NO PUNCHES ABOUT US/RSA RELATIONS DURING TELEVISED NEWS  
CONFERENCE WHICH RECEIVED BY SATELLITE AND SCREENED MAY 20. MAIN  
POINTS OF VP MONDALE STATEMENT CARRIED, INCLUDING HARD-HITTING  
SECTIONS DEALING WITH FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNTRIES.  
PM VORSTER'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS AFTER VIENNA TALKS ALSO COVERED  
DURING SAME NEWS PROGRAM.

2. DISAGREEMENT IN VIENNA FRONT-PAGE NEWS MAY 21 IN ALL RSA MEDIA. HEADLINES OF FOLLOWING PAPERS TYPICAL: RAND DAILY MAIL: "COLLISION COURSE"; THE CITIZEN: "VORSTER: I AM STILL HOPEFUL"; DIE TRANSVALER: "RSA CAN SHOW THE WORLD SOMETHING...BUT CONFRONTATION IS NOT RULED OUT."

BEELD: "PREMIER FULL OF HOPE...THERE IS NO ULTIMATUM"; NATAL WITNESS: "BIG DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN USA/RSA ON KEY ISSUES". LIBERAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS TOOK LINE THAT SAG IS "IN FOR IT" AFTER VORSTER "REJECTS OUTRIGHT MONDALE'S CONCEPT OF HOW POWER SHOULD BE SHARED IN SOUTH AFRICA." RAND DAILY MAIL CALLED MONDALE STATEMENT "TOUGHEST EVER MADE AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL BY THE US ADMINISTRATION ON THE QUESTION OF APARTHEID...STATEMENT SHOWED THAT A FAIRLY CLEAR MINIMUM POLICY IS IN FACT EMERGING AND THAT IT WILL TAKE EVEN CLEARER SHAPE AS THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE APPLICATION OF RACE POLICIES AND THE REACTION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDS." DURBAN NATAL MERCURY SAID MAJORITY RULE "HAS BEEN STARKLY SPOTLIGHTED AS FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MR MONDALE AND MR VORSTER AND FURTHER DETERIORATION IN WASHINGTON-PRETORIA RELATIONS "SEEMS INEVITABLE." JOHANNESBURG RAND DAILY MAIL CARRIED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL POINTING OUT RESULT OF VIENNA TALKS IS INCREASED PRESSURE ABOUT WHICH PAPER HAS BEEN WARNING FOR SOME TIME. INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE IS NOW JOINING WITH "INTERNAL BLACK PRESSURES" TO FORCE CHANGE. PAPER CALLS FOR SAME FLEXIBILITY AS BEING APPLIED IN SWA ISSUE TO BE APPLIED IN RSAMMMMMMZIT (SAG) SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME COURSE TO SAVE WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS."

3. CONSERVATIVE JOHANNESBURG DAILY THE CITIZEN AND AFRIKAANS PAPERS TRIED TO PAINT AS PRETTY A PICTURE AS CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 JOHANN 01267 010945Z

ALLOW. THE CITIZEN CARRIED SEVERAL LENGTHY QUOTES FROM PM VORSTER SAYING HE WAS OPTIMISTIC, THE TALKS WERE NOT A FAILURE, RSA WAS NOT THREATENED OR GIVEN ULTIMATUMS, HE WAS SURE "THE MULTINATIONAL CHARACTER OF RSA WILL IN THE END GET THROUGH TO THE WORLD", AND MORE TALKS MAY BE ON HORIZON. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS DIE TRANSVALER SAID "SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING SWA AND ON INTERNATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SOUTH AFRICA, BUT RSA'S INTERNAL POLICY COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

...RSA HAS A CASE OF ITS OWN BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE BRING THIS TO THE REALIZATION OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD." IN EDITORIAL THE CITIZEN SAID COUNTRY SHOULD NOT BE TOO DISAPPOINTED WITH OUTCOME OF TALKS. "U.S. WANTS ONE-MAN VOTE.....RSA IS NOT GOING TO COMMIT NATIONAL SUICIDE." EDITORIAL ENDED SAYING FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS HELPFUL TO BOTH SIDES AND IF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS DON'T TAKE PLACE....."WE AT LEAST KNOW WHERE WE STAND IN RELATION TO THE U.S."

4. MOST PAPERS ALSO CARRIED VORSTER STATEMENTS THAT WINNIE

MANDELA IS FREE TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE  
ELSEWHERE, AND SAG LOOKS FAVOURABLY ON RELEASE OF NAMIBIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS BUT PRISONERS HELD IN OTHER AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO BE RELEASED.HUGHES

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SOPN, PFOR, SF, US, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (MONDALE, WALTER F)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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